



Local Boy Makes Good In Hometown Theatre

Any twelve hours before midnight Greenbelters may catch sight of a young man in a tartan-plaid vest and a polka-dot tie in or near the Greenbelt Theatre. He'll be busy: there are seats to be mended, redecoration to plan, programs to book, kiddie shows to organize, employees to brief.

His name is Mike Loftus. Mike, "who describes himself—without apology—as enough of a showman to have some 'ham' in him, finished high school at McKinley Tech, majoring in music and languages. After a year with the government, he served his time in the combat engineers and finally settled down at the University of North Carolina. His degree was in political science but he spent a spanking amount of time and energy as assistant director of the student union, one of those ulcer-producing jobs in which he "booked, bought, promoted and arranged entertainment for the student body with their money."

But he left North Carolina with a hankering to pursue his first love, political science, in Latin America. "I went to Mexico and Guatemala, but after two revolutions and a Communist uprising, I decided discretion was the better part of valor."

Combination

Discretion, for Mike, meant a switch back to the entertainment field. After a year with the Roth Circuit as booker for the circuit, and relief manager in theatres, an opening broke for him in the Fruchtman organization.

The combination, apparently, is a natural.

"This is the only commodity, Mike says, "in which people buy without really knowing what they are getting."

With this attitude the Fruchtman-Loftus team has set itself standards of conduct and service which they believe will make the Greenbelt theatre not only a source of good motion-picture entertainment but "a friendly, homey social center as well."

During the first few weeks of the new schedule "attendance has picked up quite a bit."

A Birthday Club has been formed for the Saturday small fry, and those whose birthdays have occurred during the week receive applause and prizes. At present children are saving their ticket-stubs for the Grand Prize drawing at the end of the current serial. Lucky youngsters will win a Co-op English bike, a \$25 war bond (donated by the theatre), wrist watches and similar prizes.

Mike is serious about the comfort of the audiences—child and adult. He finds the children responding "most cooperatively" to the suggestions he makes from on-stage about quiet and courtesy in the theatre. They like the prizes, too.

Future Plans

Everybody's going to know what we're offering," young Loftus says with determination. "We're getting good shows faster, too."

What's more, the personal touch will be increased and improved. "With ushers, a doorman to greet you, a candy girl to serve you, and each and all of us smiling," moviegoers are promised a pleasant shock.

Plans for a snack-bar are in the dream stage, but after a few necessary physical changes like painting and repairing are completed and the bank balance looks good, they are expected to materialize. If personality and imagination will revitalize the theatre, the present management has nothing to fear.

Idea Man

During our interview, lights were on for a meat-cutting demonstration. See LOFTUS, Page 3, Col. 5

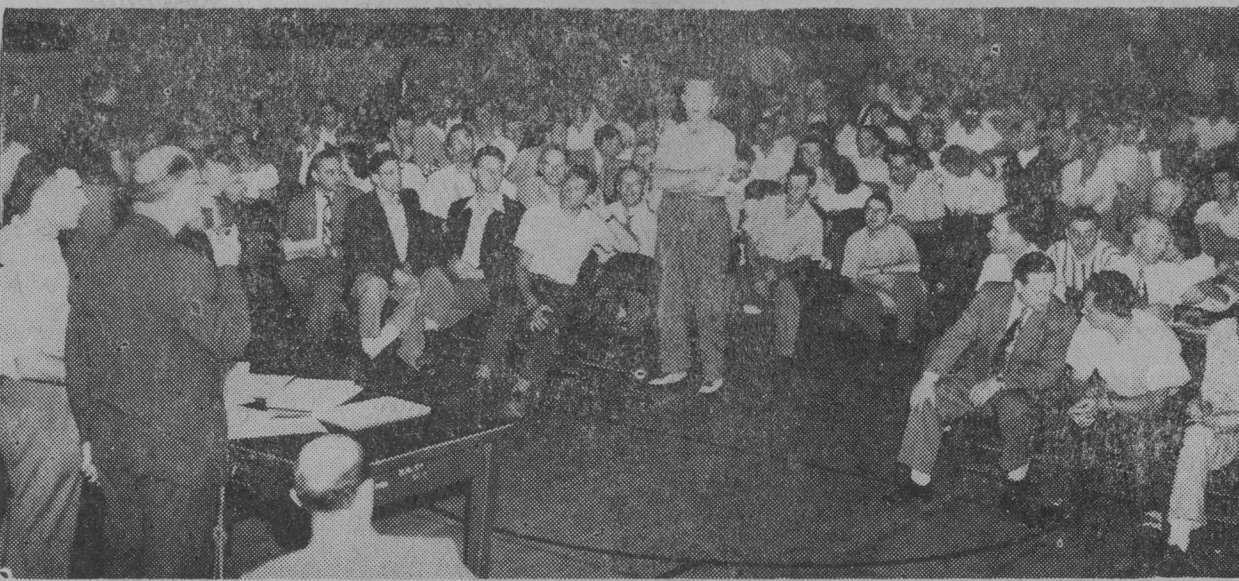
They're At The Post

The Greenbelt Public Library will sponsor a summer reading project for children in the second to the sixth grades. This year's program will take the form of a horse race, and in order to have a horse for entry in the race, children must register the week of June 18 to June 22. The race will begin June 25 and end July 31.

Nursery School Plans Annual Picnic June 9

The Greenbelt Cooperative Nursery School will hold its annual family picnic on Sunday afternoon, June 10, at 3 p.m. at the lake. A fireplace and tables will be reserved. All interested are welcome to attend. In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held on the following Sunday, June 17.

Residents Protest Rent Raise



Council Considering Replacement Pending Harrington's Resignation

By I. J. Parker

Resignation of Mayor Elizabeth Harrington from the City council, which will take place at the June 11 meeting, leaves the remaining four council members with a difficult and sensitive problem. They must choose Mayor Harrington's successor on the council "as soon as possible" according to the City Charter.

Interviews with the councilmen this week disclosed that no choice has been made as yet. Many citizens have been proposed by friends and civic-minded residents. Those being considered at present, but possibly without their knowledge, are: Allen Morrison, Earl Thomas, Mike Salzman, Ben Goldfaden, Bob Bonham, Eli DonBullion, Bruce Bowman, Curtis Barker, Adelaide Weidberg, and Carolyn Miller.

Meanwhile Frank Lastner, mayor pro tem, will serve as mayor till the next election in September.

Procedure

Election of a council replacement is held at a regular council meeting, where nominations are made and votes taken with a majority required to elect. In the past, several such elections have taken place. Once before, a mayor resigned; George Warner left such a position when he moved from Greenbelt. Joe Bargas and Frank Lastner also resigned in the past, to enter military service.

Former council members living in Greenbelt include George Bauer and Allen Morrison (former mayors), Curtiss Barker, and Sherrod East.

It was the opinion of one council member that it would not be proper to discuss a successor until Mrs. Harrington's resignation takes place. Another councilman suggested that the vacancy be left unfilled until the September election, since such a short time remained. Since the council meets only once a month during the summer, there would be little disadvantage.

Ticklish

All those interviewed expressed apprehension about the public's reaction to any choice. A selection of one candidate over another would seem to indicate implied support if the candidate ran for office as an incumbent in the fall. In fact, one stated there may be severe disagreement among the council so that a "compromise" choice may be made; to accept such a choice as an "endorsement"

would be misleading. (It was disclosed that eleven ballots were required to select a council member in an election of this type in the past.)

None of the council members admitted giving serious consideration to any single choice at this time. They have received communications from various citizens on behalf of various candidates, but none directly. Some citizens have recommended choosing the runner-up in the last election as a logical solution. Although such a practice has not been established in the past, it has been supported by many citizens.

When a list of possible candidates was read the general reaction of the councilmen was that any of those named would make good council members. One replied, "It might be wise to put their names in a hat and let the Cooperator reporter pull out the winning name!"

One possibility seems likely in the scramble for the council seat; we may have a council member named Mr. 6%!

St. Hugh's Ends Year June 8 With Program

St. Hugh's School will close at 10 a.m. Friday morning, June 8, with an assembly which will include a program of songs, poetry and several playlets.

Special awards will be given for perfect attendance, general excellence, and highest achievement in spelling. There will be a certificate of award for handwriting, and a medal for excellence in religion. Report cards will be distributed at 9:30 in the classrooms before the assembly. Children will report for school at 9:30 that morning.

The program will be followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Parents are cordially invited to attend.

Protest Rally Hears Rent Raise Stalled For 60 Days; Plan Appeal

By Bobbie Solet

Over four hundred people jammed the Center School auditorium last Thursday night for the first mass meeting called by the Rent Protest Committee, to fight the 15% increase recently asked by the Public Housing Administration.

The atmosphere was tense and quiet. No one in the general audience knew the outcome of that morning's conference with PHA. The rent increase storm had broken only a few days before. The crowd was serious and attentive, as Chairman Tom Canning introduced the four other committee members who had faced with him the administrative fire of Messrs. Jack Egan and Roy Little.

Mayor Harrington rose to commend the gathering and to announce the action City council had taken in sending a telegram to President Truman asking his intervention in the local crisis.

Hike Delayed

Excitement rose as the speakers, one after another, earnest, wry, indignant, reported their morning's experiences. We all know now what these five men—Councilman Canning, Reverend Braund, GCS President Bierwagen, Mutual Housing President Salzman, and Mayor protem Lastner—accomplished. We know they won a postponement of the rent increase until September 1. We know, as Rev. Braund emphasized, that they won for the first time in all the years of struggle with PHA (as Canning and Lastner can testify) an admission that Greenbelt is "in the black."

But the pressure is still there, merely put off for sixty short days. PHA hostility to a public hearing was solid, and a public hearing is, according to the committee, the only course of action which might bring immediate results.

Court Case

Abe Chasanow, who was the attorney in the rent protest case carried on in 1949, weighed the costs and hazards of a court battle. The Lastner-Canning case, for instance, reached the District Court in Baltimore the day a Supreme Court decision in a similar case found against the petitioner. Funds and hope ran out. A complete court battle might cost four thousand dollars, no matter how insignificant the legal fees.

Chasanow and committee members pointed out, however, that the current controversy is on more substantial grounds. The rent increase is in direct contradiction of the Federal government's present position against inflation, and if necessary, Greenbelt's struggle for equal rights with tenants all over the nation, as stressed by Paul Borsky, may end in court.

Ask Hearing

Meanwhile, although present rents stand until September first, Chairman Canning appealed for quick constructive action.

Over 600 residents have so far signed the protest petitions (text on page 4) circulated at the meeting and in the food store over the

See RALLY, Page 3, Col. 4

Abramowitz Has Show At Whyte Gallery

Recent painting by Greenbelt resident Benjamin Abramowitz are on exhibit at the Whyte Gallery. This show includes a portion of the works that were at the Baltimore Museum of Art last January. For this show, Abramowitz has prepared legends to accompany an approximate score of paintings.

The Whyte Gallery is at 1518 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., off Dupont Circle. The exhibition opens June 8 and will extend through the entire month.

Abramowitz lives at 3-L Eastway. His work has been widely shown in the Washington area.

GREENBELT COOPERATOR

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

OUR PURPOSE:

1. To report Greenbelt news fully, fairly and accurately.
2. To serve the best interests of the cooperative movement.

Harry M. Zubkoff, Editor
E. Don Bullian, Sam Fox, L. A. Lee, Peggy Markfield, Doris Asbell Mednick, Bill Mirabella, Lydia Novick, Lydalu Palmer, Eleanor Ritchie, Mollie S. Reuben, Aimee Slye, Mary Jane Zust, Ora Donoghue, Sarah Gelberg, Bobbie Solet, Morris J. Solomon, Peggy Winegarden.

George Bloom, Business Manager
Sidney Spindel, phone 6346
Advertising Representative
Janet Parker, phone 6551
Subscription Manager
Joe O'Neill, phone 4657
Circulation Manager

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Vol. 15 Thursday, June 7, 1951 No. 42

Lines of Approach?

A few weeks ago PHA sent a letter to all apartment dwellers in Greenbelt stating that the rule against hanging wash to dry outside would henceforth be strictly enforced. For the past year or so this rule had been considerably relaxed, and apartment dwellers were beginning to believe that they were entitled to the same privileges as other residents. It came as a shock, therefore, to be told that any laundry found hanging outside apartment houses would be confiscated by maintenance personnel (presumably at the cost of other important maintenance services) and that the owners would have to personally claim their clothes—if they wanted them back.

Apartment dwellers immediately circulated a petition, acquired some fifty or sixty signatures, and democratically called on PHA to plead their case. Their arguments were both reasonable and cogent. It is more healthful to hang clothes in the sun to dry, particularly children's clothes, than in a damp cellar (adjacent to the garbage room) or a drier. Hanging facilities are hardly adequate in cellars or driers, especially for those people with babies and small children, since clothes must be washed more frequently than once a week. Why, they asked, is it considered proper for all the residents to hang clothes outdoors except apartment dwellers?

PHA countered by insisting that there are adequate facilities for hanging laundry in basements, children notwithstanding; that the fact that other residents were allowed to hang clothes outdoors did not enter into the question; and that the appearance was the outstanding factor to be considered—and it certainly made for a bad appearance for visitors in the community to see clothes outside the apartment houses.

We cannot believe PHA is serious. Their reasoning has a tongue-in-cheek sort of quality, as though they half expect people to laugh in their face. Indeed, they have a right to expect just that. They have conveniently forgotten, it seems, that they are dealing with people, not numbers, and that the direct result of their action means considerable hardship for those people. We do not believe that they tried to find out, prior to their action, just what the effect would be, although it seems that would be the first step in the interests of good management. We do not believe they mean what they say about appearance. Greenbelt is for residents, not for visitors. We do not believe any residents barring a few cranks, seriously object to the appearance of clothes hanging outside apartment houses.

Alec Johnson, the new PHA manager, has impressed us as being a reasonable fellow. Perhaps if he were to receive some expressions on this subject from the community-at-large, he would reconsider his position. He has publicly stated that he would welcome discussion with citizens, and we believe that discussions lead to action. It seems to us that it behooves apartment dwellers to take every possible opportunity to communicate with him—and not only apartment dwellers, but other public-spirited citizens as well. Perhaps, in the end, he may reverse this decision.

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Notes and Notices

Sarah Gelberg, 8511

Carolyn Ann Santoro, age two months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Santoro, 3-A Laurel Hill, was baptized on Sunday, June 3, at St. Hugh's Catholic Church, by Rev. Victor J. Dowgiallo. The godparents are Mrs. Santoro's sister, Mrs. Louise Alleva of Washington, D. C., and Albert Santoro, of New York, Mr. Santoro's brother. Mrs. Santoro, Baby Carolyn's grandmother, and other relatives, came down from N. Y. for the occasion.

Midday Chapel, a fine television program which is on daily from Monday to Friday at 1:45 p.m., was graced last Friday, June 1, by the appearance of Rabbi Morris A. Sandhaus, in his capacity as assistant director of the Chaplaincy Division of the Veterans Administration. The other speaker was Moe Hoffman, executive director of the Armed Services Division of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Steven Panagoulis, age 4½, 43-A Ridge, had his tonsils removed at Leland Memorial Hospital on Thursday, May 31.

Mr. and Mrs. Justin J. Klem, 2-Q Laurel Hill, have as their guest for a short visit Mrs. Klem's aunt, Mrs. Lillian Sheehan of Rochester, N.Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Birchard and son Francis, 2-S Laurel Hill, just returned from a two-week trip to Woodbine, Iowa to attend the funeral of Mr. Birchard's father.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Schweitzer and son, Marc, 4-Q Gardenway, spent the weekend at Bridgewater, Va., visiting relatives.

Reverend Edward H. Bonsall underwent surgery at Prince Georges Hospital on Wednesday of this week. Mr. Bonsall recently retired from active ministry at the Community Church because of ill health.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Miller and children, 10-A Crescent, spent last week visiting relatives in Bedford, Pennsylvania.

At a reception in the Riverdale Elementary School on June 1, the Independence Day Committee of Prince Georges County awarded John Joseph Flynn, 13-J Ridge, an American flag for his essay on "What Independence Day Means to Me". John is a student of Holy Redeemer School at Berwyn.

ECI - PCI Shuffle Due July 1, Sam Reports

GCS General Manager Sam Ashelman attended a board meeting of the Eastern Cooperatives, Inc. in New York last weekend and has reported that reorganization and decentralization is proceeding according to plan. Ownership of the Baltimore warehouse will be transferred on July 1 to Potomac Cooperatives, Inc. of which GCS own 35% of the stock. About 90 percent of the pledges have been received from member cooperatives for the transfer of stocks and bonds. ECI will continue as the central buying and coffee-roasting plant for the east. It was pointed out by the manager of the coffee-roasting division that if co-op label coffee sales were doubled, the retail price would be considerably reduced.

It is hoped that the full-time dietician recently employed for the testing kitchen of ECI will come to Greenbelt in the summer for demonstrations in the food store.

GCS has just received a shipment of 122 bicycles from England at the port of Baltimore which will be sent to other cooperatives in Chicago, Oberlin College, Ohio Farm Bureau, and San Francisco, in addition to Greenbelt.

RIDES 'N' RIDERS

RIDE WANTED - to Greenbelt from G.W.U., 20th and G Sts., N.W. every Tuesday and Thursday. Leave 9 p.m. Call 3511.

SHARE-DRIVER wanted to Pentagon. Will alternate with one or two other drivers having 8:30-5 hours. Major L. Woodman, 8596.

ALTERNATE DRIVER wanted to Navy Yard. 8-4:30. Call GR. 3621 after 6 p.m.

RIDERS WANTED - one or both ways to 20th and G. Leave Greenbelt 9 a.m. Leave Washington 8 p.m. Call 8911.

HEBREW SERVICES

Morris A. Sandhaus, Rabbi
Greenbelt 4493

Friday, June 8 - Services will be held in the social room of the Center School at 8:30 p.m. Candle-lighting time - 8:15 p.m. Portion of the Week - Bamidbor (In the Wilderness) - first chapter in the Book of Numbers. Reading from the Prophets - Hosea:2. Sermon Topic - Introduction to Pentecost.

Sunday, June 10 - First Day of Shevuoth (Pentecost) - Morning services in the social room of the Center School at 10 a.m. Sermon topic - "On Mount Sinai."

Monday, June 11 - Second Day of Shevuoth (Pentecost) - Morning services at 10 a.m. at home of Rabbi Sandhaus, 4-H Crescent Road. Yizkor (Memorial Services) will be performed. Sermon topic - "A Time To Remember."

Dimeco-Andrus

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Andrus, 11-R Ridge, announce the marriage of their son, Julius, to Anna Jessie DiMeco of Keene, New Hampshire, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William DiMeco of that city. The wedding took place in St. Bernard's church in New Hampshire. Richard DiMeco, brother of the bride, was best man. The ushers were James J. Sommers, Jr. of Greenbelt, and John E. Clark of Rockville, Md., brother-in-law of the bridegroom. Julius attended Greenbelt High School and the University of Maryland. He is a member of the Park Police service in Washington. The newlyweds will live in Greenbelt.

Harper-Cavagnaro

Mrs. Lucille Harper, 42-B Crescent Road, was married to Sgt. Louis P. Cavagnaro of the Marine Corps on May 21. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Edgar W. Beckett, minister of the First Methodist Church of Hyattsville, in the church parlor. Sgt. Flo Griffith attended the bride.

After honeymooning in Kentucky the couple will proceed to Hawaii, where Sgt. Cavagnaro will be stationed.

COMMUNITY CHURCH PROTESTANT

Ministers:

Edward H. Bonsall, Jr.
Eric T. Braund
Church phone 7931

Saturday, June 9 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Last clean-up bee of the summer at the Church grounds (providing a good number of men and boys show up). Iced tea and sandwiches served.

Sunday, June 10 - 8:45 and 11 a.m., Church worship. Music by the Cloister and Senior choirs. Sermon, "Divided Lives". 8:45, 9:50 and 11 a.m., Church school. 10 a.m., Men's Bible Class. Guest teacher, James T. Gobbel. 7 p.m., Angelus Hour of Chimes. 8:30 p.m., Board of Deacons, church study.

Monday, June 11 - 8 p.m., Evening Guild, church study.

Tuesday, June 12 - 1:30 p.m., Council of Church Women, church study.

Thursday, June 14 - 7:15 p.m., High School Fellowship leaves for Potomac boat ride.

Saturday, June 23 - 7 p.m., Ice Cream Social, church lawn.

ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Victor J. Dowgiallo, Pastor
Greenbelt 5911

Saturday: Confessions, 3 to 5:30 p.m. for children, 7 to 9:30 for adults.

Sunday: Masses, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m. This Sunday is Holy Communion Sunday for members of the Holy Name Society at the 7:30 Mass. Holy Name meeting on Wednesday, following novena services. Nursery care and religious instructions discontinued for the summer.

Wednesday: Novena services, 8 p.m.

MOWATT MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Charles R. Strausburg, Pastor
Telephone 4987

Sunday, June 10 - Sunday School at 8:45 and 9:45 a.m. Classes for all age groups. Morning worship at 11 a.m. Sermon, "People Who Are Worthwhile", by the minister.

Wednesday, June 13 - Choir rehearsal in the Church at 8 p.m.

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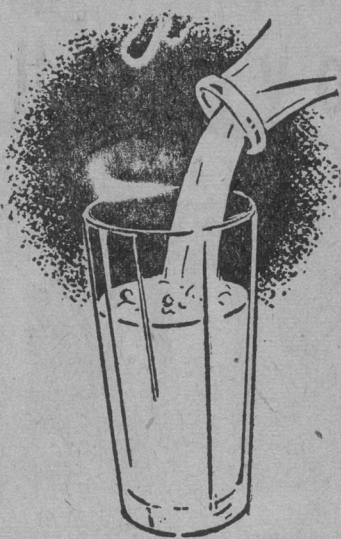
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12c per quart

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RALLY from page 1

weekend. Roughly 100 dollars were contributed to pay for clerical and telegraphing expenses already incurred. Tonight and Friday canvassers will cover the town in an

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June 7, 1951

GREENBELT COOPERATOR

Three

effort to hit the 1000 signatures necessary to make the campaign effective.

The Rent Protest Committee is contacting Congressmen to enlist their support. Top men on the Hill will be asked to intercede on Greenbelt's behalf for a public hearing, which will give residents their chance to learn the basis for the rent increase and to present their side of the story.

LOFTUS from page 1

tion being displayed for a group of home economics students from Greenbelt High. This sort of activity comes under the heading of "public service", a theatre function Mike Loftus means to expand and make permanent.

"You can say that our slogan is an individual greeting for every patron," he finished, and smiled the hospitable smile which will before long be the trademark of our rejuvenated theatre.

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This is on the UP and UP

GREENBELT VETERANS HOUSING CORP.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Presents A

REPORT TO ITS MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOW RESIDENTS OF GREENBELT:

1. Negotiations have been resumed with PHA
2. Specific details such as price, down payments, and perpetual lease agreements will be given to the membership as they develop.
3. A membership meeting will be held as soon as developments warrant, but, in any event, no later than September.
4. No commitments will be made during negotiations without membership approval.
5. New members invited.
- a. Election of board of directors
- b. Complete reports on progress of negotiations.
- c. Financial details available. Specimen copies of perpetual lease agreements, and by-laws will be mailed in advance for membership action.
- d. Membership instructions to newly-elected board.

The following items will be on the agenda.

For information call:

BRUCE BOWMAN, SEC. 14-Z-3 LAUREL HILL. GR 6468

BEN GOLDFADDEN, TREAS. 3-A RIDGE RD. GR 2381

1100 Of Your Neighbors Are Members. How About Joining Them?

PETITION

To the President of the United States,
the Honorable Harry S. Truman:

WHEREAS, the Public Housing Administration has served notice of a city-wide 15% rent increase in Greenbelt, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, contrary to the regulations of the Office of Housing Expediter applicable to all public housing projects, no opportunity was given to oppose the proposed increase at a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, in two previous rent adjustments, in 1943 and 1949, rents were raised about 110% above the 1941 levels; and

WHEREAS, the additional proposed increase would further boost rent to almost 140% above the 1941 levels; and

WHEREAS, in 1949 PHA asserted that the rent increase covered increased operating costs and establish "comparability" with other private housing projects; and

WHEREAS, no further rent increases were granted these private housing projects; and

WHEREAS, maintenance in Greenbelt has been kept at an emergency minimum, pending the sale of the city; and

WHEREAS, negotiations for the sale of Greenbelt are now under way with a local veterans' corporation; and

WHEREAS, the average current rent for a two-bedroom unit in old Greenbelt is \$71, as compared with \$57 for the average "comparable" unit in the District of Columbia, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned tenants in Greenbelt, respectfully urge you to intercede with the Public Housing Administration and afford Greenbelt residents the same rights and privileges granted tenants in other housing projects and private dwellings, by deferring the additional rent increase until a full public hearing has been held.

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WATERFRONT COTTAGE, for rent, furnished, on Rhode River near Beverly Beach. Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, large screen porch. Fishing, crabbing, private beach. \$45 a week. Call 5032.

AIRPLANE RIDES - proceeds to JCC Building Fund - call Harry Zubkoff, Greenbelt 3571.

Fox Tales

By Sam Fox

Glee Club: The Junior Chorus has completed a very successful season performing before different local groups. They will receive certificates for their achievement. Hoping all return in the fall of the year.

Softball: The second round of the league starts this week with Thrifty playing Nelson Studes, Mt. Rainier vs. ERCO, Arcade-Pontiac playing Annadale. Games will be played every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday night.

Baseball: You can see a good baseball game any Saturday or Sunday on Braden Field. The Boys Club teams or the American Legion will be playing. Watch our boys play ball and encourage them to play better by your attendance.

Swimming Pool: Please do not bring bottles into the pool and be sure to check your valuables at all times; the pool is not responsible for lost valuables. The pool will be open from 6 to 9 when the nights are warm enough to warrant.

Don't forget to reserve Fourth of July at the lake for the benefit of the Boys Club . . . There will be a mid-night swim on July 4 for adults only . . . serving coffee and donuts.

Summer Schedule: The complete summer schedule will be in the paper next week. You can pick the activity you want this summer and register the first day you attend. Swimming lists will be posted on swimming pool bulletin board. . . . Screening for beginners will be announced next week. Look for the date, it's important to your child.

If you have not been receiving your Cooperator regularly
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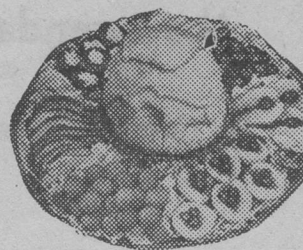


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